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## Journalism Pioneer and Founder of Latino Cancer Institute Joins Stem Cell Agency Board

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**Oakland, CA** – Ysabel Duron, a pioneering award-winning Latina journalist, and a leading figure in cancer education in the Latino community in the US, has been appointed to the governing Board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

State Controller Betty Yee made the appointment saying: "Ms. Duron's personal perspective as a (cancer) survivor and her commitment to equity will serve the institute's mission well."

Ms. Duron was a journalist and TV news anchor for more than 43 years winning numerous awards, including two EMMYS. She has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and given the Living Legacy Award by the Chicana/Latina Foundation.

As a journalist she covered her own battle against Hodgkin's Lymphoma, using her reporting to help raise awareness about the disease and the health disparities involved in treating it in communities of color.

In 2003, as a result of her own experience, she founded Latinas Contra Cancer, a non-profit organization that advocates for and serves the Latino community. She is now the President of the Latino Cancer Institute, a national network of Latino cancer service agencies addressing the community's cancer disparities.

"As a veteran journalist, I like to think I am as curious as a scientist, I just frame the question differently," says Ms. Duron. "Usually I am looking for the best return for the public health! This appointment gives me a new learning opportunity to understand a very complex issue, and, make it bite size so the public, patients and advocates will understand how these scientific revelations will impact lives in the short term and the long run. As a steward of taxpayer dollars, I also want to make sure there is equity for communities across California, and that the research serves all of us"

We are delighted to welcome Ysabel to the Board," says Jonathan Thomas, CIRM Board Chair. "She has a well-deserved reputation as a champion for patients and an activist committed to breaking down barriers that prevent people in the Latino community accessing quality care. She will add a powerful voice to our Board."

Ms. Duron replaces Sherry Lansing as the CIRM Board patient advocate for cancer.

"It is impossible to overstate Sherry's importance and contributions to CIRM over her long tenure on the Board," says Thomas. "Sherry was one of the original Board Members and a towering presence who played a central role in the formative years of the Agency, including co-chairing the Standards Working Group, which set the ethical guidelines for the future research CIRM would enable. Since that time, she has been a commanding voice of reason and an unrelenting positive force on behalf of all patients. She will be sorely missed."

### About CIRM

At CIRM, we never forget that we were created by the people of California to accelerate stem cell treatments to patients with unmet medical needs, and act with a sense of urgency to succeed in that mission.

To meet this challenge, our team of highly trained and experienced professionals actively partners with both academia and industry in a hands-on, entrepreneurial environment to fast track the development of today's most promising stem cell technologies.

With \$3 billion in funding and approximately 300 active stem cell programs in our portfolio, CIRM is the world's largest institution dedicated to helping people by bringing the future of cellular medicine closer to reality.

For more information go to [www.cirm.ca.gov](http://www.cirm.ca.gov)

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